the overall performance, the achievement is 1.17 per cent.

श्री रामसिंह भाई पातलीया भाई राठवा : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के पास ऐसी कोई गाइड-लाइन्स है जो ट्री प्लांटेशन करना चाहते है उसके अन्दर जो खर्चा होना है उसके लिये कुछ सहायता वे दे सके ?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, for afforestation one special programme was introduced in 1983. As per that programme which is identical to IRD programme, about Rs. 600 crores have to flow from the bank and a matching subsidy has to come from the Central Government and the State Governments on 50:50 basis. And this is being used for the afforestation in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question—Question No. 390.

Demand for Indian goods in gulf countries

*390. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite great demand for Indian products in the Gulf market there is a slump in their export due to the poor quality and high price of such products; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There has not been any slump in our exports to the Gulf region. In spite of severe competition from the advanced countries, there has been an increase in our exports to the Gulf region as will be evident from the following figures:

	(*Rs. Crores*)
1981-82	614
1982-83	687
1983-84	710

(b) Among the several measures proposed to be taken to improve our export performance in the Gulf region, following are the more important ones:—

(i) A new export promotion and marketing strategy for Indian goods has been drawn up. Selected countries have been identified as thrust markets for intensive export promotion efforts.

(ii) Similarly, thrust commodities/product groups have been identified and special measures are proposed to promote their exports.

(iii) Possibilities of link deals involving linkage of exports with imports, within the framework of the existing policy, are being explored.

(iv) Participation in Exhibitions in these countries. Exclusive Indian exhibitions are being organised in Saudi Arabia and Qatar. In addition Indian Jewellery exhibition-cum-sale are being organised in UAE and Kuwait.

(v) Special attention is being paid to promote project exports in the region.

(vi) Promotion of joint ventures between Indian and local parties in these countries.

SHRI C. HARIDAS: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the demand for the Indian goods in the Gulf. Has the Government received any complaints about the substandard quality of Indian goods?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, the main items of exports from our country to the Gulf area have been tea, spices, fruits, vegetables and meat. And now we have also started in a small way the export of engineering goods. There has been at one time a complaint about the quality

of a particular product of this meat. We are trying to take up the matter with the concerned party.

SHRI C. HARIDAS: Sir, the hon. Minister says that among other things, efforts are being made for the promotion of joint ventures between Indian and local parties in these countries. May I know what are the existing joint ventures and the proposed joint ventures which will increase trade and commerce?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, the Indian companies have set up a number of joint ventures in the Gulf areas. Now, some of these are that in Saudia Arabia we have joint ventures on rubber products, hotel management, engineering products; in Oman we have a project on petro-chemical complex; in Qatar we have three projects, namely, glass fibre, petro-chemical and paints; in UAE we have joint ventures on aluminium products, gas cylinders, sulphuric acid, steel rolling mills and ice-cream and in Bahrain we have joint venture on architectural interior decoration and construction of cinema houses.

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Sir, the basis of the main question is that there is an increase in the malpractices from these countries, the exporting countries, to the Gulf countries. I want to know from the Minister whether there is any increase in malpractices in the export business by way of certain sub-standard materials especially in the edible items and whether the Government has got any complaint from any Gulf countries in this regard.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I have said that we have received one complaint and that is regarding meat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Jacob.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Sir, in the export of vegetables to the Gulf countries there was an alarming report in the press that vegetables are not lifted from the Trivandrum airport to the Gulf countries as a result of which several crores of foreign exchange are lost. Sir, once the foreign market is lost for vegetables, it will be difficult to capture it because they may switch on to other countries for the purchase of vegetables. Sir, is the Government taking steps to ensure that the supply of vegetables is going to be continued? I am told that the Air India have refused to carry vegetables on account of security reasons for want of certain equipment for checking up the vegetables sent from Trivandrum. Has it been brought to the notice of the Government?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, we are examining this question.

Boostig of silk production

*391. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE:†

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give incentives for boosting silk production in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to set up an "Institute of Fashion Technology" in Delhi for training designers and producers of silk; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Several steps have been taken for increasing the production of silk in the country in past. A statement indicating major steps taken in this regard is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Prof. (Mrs.) Asima Chatterjee.